GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3768
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of wasteland and agricultural land, separately, in the country at the end of 2013-14;

(b) whether it is a fact that land available for agricultural production in the country at present is less, as compared to the wasteland if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time limit to convert these wastelands into agricultural lands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with area of land targetted to be converted as agricultural land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): As per the Wasteland Atlas of India 2011, the total area of wasteland in the country is 46.70 million hectare. As per information of Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (2011-12 data), the total area of agricultural land in the country is 181.98 million hectare.

(b): No Madam.

(c) & (d): There is no scheme exclusively to convert wastelands into agricultural land. However, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing an area development programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed / degraded areas including wastelands in the country. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons. As on 31.12.2014, the Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 8214 projects covering an area of 39.07 million ha and has released an amount of Rs. 10847.02 crore as Central share of funds under IWMP to various States.